

# Ellis Island Oral Interview

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Education Department  
Ellis Island Immigration Museum  
Statue of Liberty National Monument



## **Interviewee: Armen Jermakian**

Date of Birth: September 8, 1923

Date of Interview: September 26, 1996

Interviewer: Paul E. Sigrist, Jr.

Immigrated from Turkey in 1923 at Ellis Island

Ellis Island Collection: EI-808

## **Jermakian (Armenian Music and Foreigner):**

My mother used to love to play the music. It was Armenian and Turkish music that they played. And in the summertime the windows would be opened. And my playmates now were both Armenian and non Armenian. And they'd hear that music coming out, you know, they'd call us "foreigners" and things like that because of that music. And I used to go home and tell my mother, "Shut it off," or "Stop that music. Everybody thinks we're..." and that I distinctly remember because we didn't want to, and I love that music now myself but at that time, you know, they always think you're, they always looked upon you as being not native, you know. They looked down on you, they did. At the beginning they did look down on you.